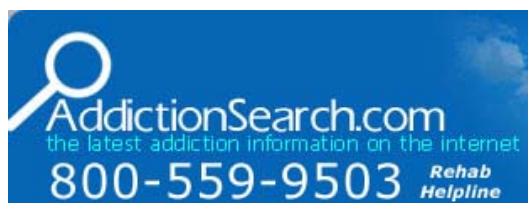


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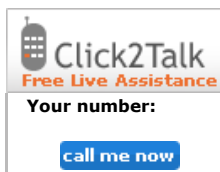
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**Oxycontin Addiction:**

Oxycontin is a prescription painkiller used for moderate to high pain relief associated with injuries, bursitis, dislocations, fractures, neuralgia, arthritis, lower back pain and pain associated with cancer. It contains oxycodone, an opium derivative and is produced in a time released tablet. Oxycontin commonly referred to as OC, OX, Oxy, Oxycotton and kicker, was introduced in 1996 and has had a rapid escalation of abuse. The tablets can be chewed, crushed and snorted like cocaine, crushed and dissolved in water and then injected like heroin. The most serious side effect is respiratory depression, particularly dangerous for the elderly. **Oxycontin addiction** and demand has resulted in pharmacy robberies and forged prescriptions. The estimated number of people aged 12 or older with an oxycontin addiction has increased from 1.9 million in 2002, to 3.1 million in 2004. The largest increase occurred among young adults aged 18 to 25.

Drug Rehabilitation

Drug Rehabilitation is an umbrella term for a variety of processes by which a person addicted to a drug stops using that drug. These processes can vary from cold turkey to the use of substitute



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Since the 1960s, many addicts have reported that even a single dose of ibogaine, a hallucinogenic alkaloid extracted from the root of an African shrub, helps them kick their habit by reducing their cravings for drugs. And there is hard evidence to back these claims, as well.¹ Ibogaine was first introduced as a potential treatment for [opiate addiction](#) by Howard Lotsof, who took the drug in 1962 looking for a psychedelic experience, and awoke 30 hours later with no cravings and no [withdrawal symptoms](#), despite being a heavy [heroin](#) user at the time.² Lotsof was able to develop and follow an ibogaine maintenance program, which he then followed for three years while remaining [opiate](#) free. In 1986, Lotsof opened a company by the name of NDA International to advocate for the use and research of ibogaine and its active constituents as anti-addictive compounds.

Since ibogaine aides in the cessation of addiction, it started to be used to deal with [opiates](#) and other substance addictions. Ibogaine has only been introduced to Western scientific medicine but has documented use by the Bwiti tribe in Central Africa for centuries. At lower doses ibogaine has the ability to increase energy and mental alertness and appears to decrease the desire for food and drink. Higher doses (20+ mg/kg) of ibogaine have a larger psychoactive property, and is used ritualistically in initiation rites for its potent hallucinogenic properties.³

Barbara E. Judd, CSW did a study on ibogaine and stated that the most difficult aspects of treatment are getting the patient to enter treatment.⁴ She notes that the three major obstacles are the fear of [detoxification](#) lack of insight, and the inability of patients to control their urges to use drugs. It was in these three areas where she felt the benefits of ibogaine treatment far outweighed those of traditional methods. Judd further states that psychological fear of pain and withdrawal prevents many addicts from even attempting detox. Addicts feared having to deal with the emotions that lead them to use in the first place. Judd adds that when patients learn the benefits of ibogaine they are more willing to try it.

Like all forms of detox, ibogaine is not without risks and side effects. At therapeutic doses, ibogaine has an active window of 24 to 48 hours, is often physically and mentally exhausting and produces ataxia for as long as twelve hours.⁵ Nausea that may lead to vomiting is not uncommon

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drugs which do not have the same action upon the state of consciousness as the original drug to which the person was addicted.

Alcohol Addiction

Alcohol Addiction is a chronic disease characterized by a strong craving for alcohol, a constant or periodic reliance on use of alcohol despite adverse consequences, the inability to limit drinking, physical illness when drinking is stopped, and the need for increasing amounts of alcohol to feel its effects.

Xanax Addiction

- As one of the class of drugs benzodiazepines Xanax has been shown to be a dangerous drug to withdraw from. The reason that **Xanax withdrawal** is dangerous is that as a CNS depressant that slows neural activity in the brain when the drug is abruptly stopped brain activity can rebound and accelerate out of control. Prolonged Xanax users should not attempt to withdraw from the drug without medical supervision.

throughout the experience. These side effects reduce the attractiveness of ibogaine as a recreational drug at therapeutic doses, however, at lower doses ibogaine is known to have stimulant effects. It is still a controversial and experimental drug and there are some cases of fatal cardiac arrhythmias.

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There are two types of ibogaine treatment. The first type of treatment is oriented toward addiction, most commonly [heroin](#) dependence, and typically involves dosages in the range of 15 to 25 mg/ kg .5-8 The second type of treatment, also known as "initiator," involves a dosage on the order of 8 to 12 mg/kg, or about half of the dose used for addiction and is used for spiritual insight and facilitating psychotherapy. 9-11. In addition to reducing craving, ibogaine often promotes a sense of wellbeing that can last from weeks to months. As the studies into the nature of ibogaine progress, scientists have discovered that ibogaine's anti-addictive properties are actually two-fold. First, when the substance is consumed, the body produces a chemical called noribogaine. Noribogaine blocks the brain's receptors that control cravings. Noribogaine also increases dopamine and serotonin levels, which elevate feelings of wellbeing.

So while ibogaine is not a substitute for drugs, and is not addictive, ibogaine is a chemical dependence disruption and a chance for patients to get a head start on recovery. Ibogaine enables the patient to focus on the underlying causes of addiction without going through the intense [withdrawal symptoms](#) that accompany most types of [detoxification](#). And, even if there are some remaining symptoms after ibogaine detox they are more tolerable than other detox approaches. 13 Studies show that ibogaine has the ability to drastically attenuate drug withdrawal in all patients and, in 90 percent of treated patients during one case study, to interrupt the patient's craving to continue drug use for periods of time ranging from as short as two days to as long as two and a half years from a single treatment. 14

This article was last modified on 10/25/2006.

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